

FOSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Location:

Foster Town House
180 Howard Hill Road
Foster, RI 02825

Tuesday, June 21, 2011
Open Session - 7:00 pm

1. Convene Meeting – Chair, Kathleen Swanson, called the meeting of the Foster School Committee to order at 7:02 pm.

- a. Roll Call – Present were Chair, Kathleen Swanson, Vice-Chair, Shelley Pezza, member, Patricia Fountain, Superintendent/Principal, Davida Irving, and FSC secretary, Mrs. McCullough.
- b. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by everyone in attendance.

2. Student Award Recognition – Dr. Irving recognized the accomplishment of two third grade students for their award winning posters / drawings in the 2011 Scituate Water Shed Association Poster Contest.

3. Public Comment –

Members of the audience voiced bus monitor concerns and questions were asked. Also, clarification of savings on the line items where monitors, secretaries and custodians have been cut on the budget and what and where those savings will be used.

4. Approval of Minutes –

On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the Foster School Committee approved the Minutes of May 24, 2011 as amended with this clarification – the FSC decided to continue with the current legal counsel from the previous school committee. Also, the Warrant for \$333,694.67 be reduced and reflected in the minutes, as the check for \$17,021.40 to the RI School for the Deaf because it had not been paid as of the May 24th meeting. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the Foster School committee approved the Executive Session Minutes “sealed” of May 24, 2011. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

5. Approval of Warrants –

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the Foster School Committee approved the Warrant for \$300,698.28. Discussion followed. Motion passed.

Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mrs. Fountain – no

6. Old Business (for discussion/action)

a. Budget 2011-2012

1) Secretaries – Contract Clarification –

Dr. Irving recommended that the breakdown of positions in the Secretarial Contract be revised to reflect the 2.0 FTE for Secretarial staff, because the Business Manager has a separate contract.

2) Custodial Positions –

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the Foster School Committee approved the Superintendent's recommendation of reducing each custodian by five hours per week with the ESP Union's Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) as presented.

Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-1.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mrs. Fountain – abstained

3) Transportation – Monitors –

Mrs. Fountain introduced members of Families Interested in Safe Transportation (F.I.S.T.), who gave testimonials. Discussion followed. On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the Foster School Committee voted to approved the Superintendent's recommendation of no monitors on eight (8) regular buses for the 2011-2012 school year if the Rhode Island Department of Education Commissioner grants Foster the variances to the requirement for school bus monitor; the variances will be applied for under existing door to door service as well as by utilizing zone monitors with a public address system. Discussion followed. Motion passed. Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mrs. Fountain – no

The Superintendent will speak to The Trust concerning the liability to the school for not having monitors on the buses.

The Foster School Committee moved up item #9.

9. Vote to go into Executive Session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a) (1) Personnel (2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation was moved on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson at 9:00 pm. Motion passed. Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mrs. Fountain – no

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson the Foster School Committee voted to go into Open Session at 9:25 pm. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson the Foster School Committee voted to “seal” the Executive Session. Motion passed. Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mrs. Fountain – no

Mrs. Swanson reported that the Foster School Committee discussed collective bargaining and obtained legal advice over the bussing issue that was brought up and no votes were taken.

The Chair moved item **#7e. New Business (for discussion/action), FTA Contract –**

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the Foster School Committee voted to approve the tentative agreement approved by the negotiating team of the Union and the Committee on this day of June 21st, 2011 which has been ratified by the Union.

Discussion followed. Motion passed. Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mrs. Fountain – no

Item #8b. **Communication/Reports, *b. Superintendent's Report –***

1) Personnel – Resignations, Appointments, Re-calls

On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the Foster School Committee voted to accept the resignation of Mrs. Karen Seitler with regret. Motion passed.

Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Mrs. Swanson and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the Foster School Committee voted on the Superintendent's recommendation to recall the following teachers:

Rebecca Sullivan

Nancy O'Hare

Helen Dixon

Laurie Murphy

Darlene Cardoso

The recall is based on the FTA contract and the number of students, projected student enrollment, and to replace half of the position that Mrs. Seitler held. Discussion followed. Motion passed. Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mrs. Fountain – no

Under the Superintendent's report, Dr. Irving gave an update on the roof reconstruction.

Dr. Irving will be attending professional development in Washington DC on July 11 & 12, 2011 and there is no cost to the School Department.
Comment and discussion followed the report.

b. FSD Truancy Policy – 2nd Reading -

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the Foster School Committee voted to accept the second reading for the Truancy Policy as presented by the Superintendent. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

c. Resource Sharing with the Region – Technology -

Dr. Irving supplied the Committee with a draft update of expected costs for the 2011-2012 school year, however, she is still waiting for Dr. Barnes to supply a draft of a contract for these services.

d. BRC – PO & P/R Procedures -

On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the Foster School Committee voted to direct the Superintendent to draft purchase order policy that ensures the adoption of “Standard General Accounting Principles” and utilizing the recommendations the temporary budget resource committee as well as the document that was provided to us by the Business Manager from the Region. Discussion followed. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

e. Legal Counsel

On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the School Committee directed the Superintendent to research the fact that Legal services need to go out to bid based on Foster Town Charter language that says anything greater than five thousand dollars must be put out to bid. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

7. New Business (for discussion/action)

a. FSD Volunteer Background Check Policy – draft

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the Foster School Committee voted to approve the draft of the FSD Volunteer Background Check Policy as presented. Discussion followed. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

b. FSD Employment Policy – draft

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the Foster School Committee voted to approve the first reading as presented. Discussion followed. Ms. Pezza and Mrs. Fountain withdrew their motion and made a motion (Ms. Pezza / Mrs. Fountain) to table the FSD Employment Policy until the Superintendent researches the need to comply with the Town’s Employment Policy and RIDE BEP Policies. Discussion followed. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

c. Summer School Program

The Superintendent reported to the Foster School Committee and she made a recommendation to have a program developed for an after school program in the fall.

d. Bristol Warren Regional School Committee Resolution

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the Foster School Committee voted to approve the resolution put forward by the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee. Discussion followed. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

e. FTA Contract – This item was moved up on the agenda.

8. Communication/Reports

a. Correspondence – none.

b. Superintendent's Report –

1) *Personnel – Resignations, Appointments, Re-calls*

This item was moved up on the agenda.

c. Business Manager Report

The Superintendent gave the Business Manager's report. The form will follow the same format as the Region's.

d. Future Agenda Items

- Technology position for 11/12
- After / Before School Programs for 11/12
- Instructional ½ time Specialist Position
- Reported Savings – elimination of monitors, reduced hours for custodians and secretary
- Purchase Order process
- Legal Counsel

At this point the Foster School Committee scheduled the next School Committee meeting for the second Tuesday in August = August 9, 2011.

10. Reconvene Open Session – This was moved up on the agenda.

11. Adjournment –

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the Foster School Committee voted to adjourn at 11:00 pm. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helena McCullough
FSC Secretary